Cite your sources properly to avoid plagiarism.

Plagiarism consists in acquiring, consciously or not, someone else’s work.

That is why the reader must be able to distinguish in your works what has been written by you from the elements that have been borrowed from other authors.

For this purpose you can:

- cite, by placing between quotation marks and by italicising the source text excerpt;
- paraphrase, rephrase with your own words the selected excerpt.

In both cases, you must immediately mention the source in the text, and in the final bibliography, bring additional details, according to your institution’s rules.

To avoid unintentional plagiarism, we advise you, during your research, to use a software that will allow you to archive easily the useful references and to integrate them in your works.

Citing your sources properly takes some time: do not work at the last minute!

EPFL engages in preventing plagiarism.

A lack of skills in citation and the misuse of « copy-paste » are likely to cause numerous plagiarism cases. To avoid it, EPFL is carrying out an awareness campaign whose objective is to give practical advices, and remind the rules to follow, in order to avoid sanctions and respect scientific ethics. This campaign targets primarily undergraduate students, but also concerns all the institution’s staff members, be it a professor, researcher or administrative staff.

How to avoid plagiarism.

Plagiarism is an offence.

Don’t be silly, find out about good practices for avoiding plagiarism!

library.epfl.ch

citation.epfl.ch

Good practices for avoiding plagiarism!
DID YOU KNOW?

Paraphrase
If you rephrase an excerpt or an idea in your own words, you still have to cite your sources.

 Abyssal Citation
If a document cites another one, you need to cite both the original and the cited text.

Translation
Translating a text doesn't change citation rules.

Self Plagiarism
You have to cite yourself when you reuse your own previous work.

Team Work
When a document produced by several authors contains plagiarism, all the authors are responsible.

Images and Graphs
When images, graphs, or statistics are used, their sources must also be cited.

Slideshows
Slides used in a presentation must also mention their sources.

Internet
Anonymous sources derived from the Internet must also have their references listed.

Universal Truth
General knowledge (like Paris is the capital of France), and well-known facts do not need to be cited.

Plagiarizing Equals Taking a Huge Risk!
Proven plagiarism cases are studied by the disciplinary sections of institutions who decide regularly about the sanctions. Plagiarism being a serious offence, those sanctions can be very severe. Here is an example of a decision of the National Council of Higher Education and Research (April 2015):

"Considering [...] on the basis of all the file documents, the public law dissertation of M. XXX contains several plagiarized pages, the person on trial having copied textually an article published by M. YYYY without using quotation marks, and without indicating its sources [...] M. XXX is excluded from all higher education establishment for a five-year period."

"Plagiarism, an ease-of-use? Firstly a risk!"
Yvon Piger